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Mission Team from Gardner-Webb Works with Clinic and Center in Guatemala

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Office of University
Communications

April 2, 2019

Group of 14 Painted a School and Helped Take Inventory of Medicines



BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—A mission team from Gardner-Webb University traveled to Guatemala over spring break to work with Good Shepherd Clinic and Center in Quetzaltenango. The group of 14 included eight nursing students and was led by Melissa McNeilly, instructor in nursing, and Stacy Simmons, associate minister to the University for pastoral care.

Simmons praised the team for adapting when mishaps occurred. “We had to be flexible with changes to travel plans, having no power or water for two days, and eating whatever food had not spoiled,” she explained. “With that being said, our students did well and kept a positive attitude throughout the week.”

Partnering with North Carolina Baptists on Mission, the group helped to paint a local school and counted thousands of medicines to keep an inventory for the clinic. They also distributed hygiene kits, and picked up trash along the road and around the clinic. While working at the school, the GWU students took opportunities to play soccer and basketball with the children.

Carisa Rausch, a nursing major from Cary, N.C., said working at the school and spending time with the children had the most impact on her. “The kids were so sweet,” she observed. “It was amazing to know that we were doing something to help them realize that someone cares for them. It was a great trip that helped me grow closer to God.”

Other team members were:



- Curtis Flickinger, Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN), Raleigh, N.C.
- Jo Brennan, ABSN, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- Amanda Waddell, ABSN, Greenville, N.C.
- Paige Bortnick, nursing, Hickory, N.C.
- Victoria Harrington, Boiling Springs
- Christina “Logan” McGuirt, Biology, Stanley, N.C.
- Cassie Isreal, a nursing major from Cherryville, N.C.
- Cailen Blaire, biology, Hermitage, Pa.
- Grace Pippin, nursing, Wendell, N.C.
- Brianna Mullinax, nursing, Lawndale, N.C.
- Emily Rhew, psychology, Davidson, N.C.

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